



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 28, 2005

S. 491

Christopher Kangas Fallen Firefighter Apprentice Act

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on June 16, 2005

CBO estimates that enacting S. 491 would increase direct spending by about \$2 million in fiscal year 2006 and by an average of less than \$500,000 in each year thereafter. S. 491 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

Under current law, the families of public safety officers (including volunteer firefighters) who have died as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty are eligible for a one-time payment of about \$275,000. Public safety officers who have been permanently disabled are eligible for the same payment; however, this payment is subject to the availability of appropriations. S. 491 would clarify the definition of firefighter to include volunteer apprentices or trainees, regardless of age or duty restrictions. Currently, such individuals are not considered eligible for the \$275,000 payment. The bill's provisions would apply to incidents occurring on or after May 4, 2002.

In the past 20 years, 15 volunteer firefighters under the age of 18 have died as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty, including five since May 4, 2002. Based on this information, CBO expects that an average of one person per year would be affected by the provisions of S. 491. Thus, we estimate that enacting the bill would increase direct spending by about \$2 million in fiscal year 2006 (including payments for individuals who died on or after May 4, 2002) and by an average of less than \$500,000 in each year thereafter. (The cost would likely be zero in some years and between \$500,000 and \$1 million in some years.) Also, we estimate that spending from appropriated funds would increase by less than \$500,000 in any year to make additional payments to disabled public safety officers.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.